

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

OF WEST VIRGINIA

\* \* \* \* \*

SCOTT T. BALLOCK, \*

Plaintiff \*

vs. \* 1:17-CV-52

ELLEN RUTH COSTLOW, STATE \*

TROOPER MICHAEL KIEF, \*

STATE TROOPER RONNIE M. \*

GASKINS and STATE TROOPER \*

CHRIS BERRY, \*

Defendants \*

\* \* \* \* \*

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

ELLEN RUTH COSTLOW

June 13, 2019

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1           A.     Where Scott was told to stop contacting me.

2           Q.     All right.

3                 My question to you is ---.

4           A.     No, that doesn't tell them to go do it.

5           Q.     All right.

6                 I'm not going to parse the terms with you.

7           A.     Okay.

8           Q.     You wrote to them, you said you need to go get  
9 this done, you wanted it done that day. My question is  
10 why wasn't anything done that day? If not that day,  
11 pretty soon after that email was sent. Why'd it take  
12 them until the third week of August, same year before  
13 anything got done?

14          A.     I got a call from Marion County Sheriff  
15 Department.

16          Q.     Uh-huh (yes).

17          A.     It must have been --- it must have been August  
18 of 2013 or late July of 2013 --- it was late summer ---  
19 asking me if I knew Thomas Ballock. And they were  
20 concerned, telling me we need to let you know that he's  
21 been coming in asking lots of questions about you and  
22 asking for records under for you. A couple of days later  
23 I got a phone call from West Virginia State Police asking  
24 me to come in. They had concerns about Tom Ballock in

1 --- as it pertains to --- as it pertained to my safety.

2 Q. Now I took the deposition of Michael Kief in  
3 this case. Are you aware of that?

4 A. Yes, I'm aware.

5 Q. That deposition was aided by certain documents  
6 from this police investigation file. And nearest we can  
7 figure it that exchange you just characterized happened  
8 in August 2013. Okay?

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. I just showed you a May 29 email that you sent  
11 your lawyers, saying that you need something done today.  
12 And my question was, why didn't anything happen until  
13 August. Did your lawyers ---?

14 A. Oh, no.

15 Q. Did your lawyers explore alternate methods to  
16 deal with the emails you were receiving? Did they talk  
17 to you perhaps about going to see Judge Minor?

18 A. We ---.

19 ATTORNEY PHILLIPS: Objection.

20 ATTORNEY CROOKS: It's been weighed. I  
21 mean it's been weighed. She --- this is all a weighed.  
22 It opens --- yes, these questions are appropriate.

23 ATTORNEY PHILLIPS: All right.

24 THE WITNESS: I don't ---.

1 never going to stop. Lucky for me, no one cares anymore  
2 about his lies, public service announcements.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Are you looking for Sergeant Kief to do  
5 something? What --- what kind of feedback is he giving  
6 you here at this point?

7 A. Just understanding we will don't have laws  
8 about that.

9 Q. Would you say that you're friends with Mike  
10 Kief?

11 A. No.

12 Q. He's not a friend of yours?

13 A. No.

14 Q. I know that Tom Ballock called Sergeant Kief  
15 and made a complaint that you had an affair with Chris  
16 Berry. You know that.

17 A. I just found that out.

18 Q. You just found that out what from me?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Didn't Sergeant Kief explain to you why he  
21 reached out to you back in August of 2013?

22 A. No, I explained that earlier. Concerned about  
23 my safety. When ---.

24 Q. Concerned about your safety?